

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

December 16, 2013

www.op97.org

Important Dates

Unit 3 Math Assessment

December 17

Ethnic Fest

December 20

Ethnic Fest

Ethnic Fest will be held on this Friday, December 20. All recipes were due last Friday so Ms. Rossi could review them for students with food allergies. If you did not have a chance to submit your recipe, please feel free to bring a paper product to the festivities. We will not be able to accept any food that was not cleared by Ms. Rossi.

Typing Practice

Students can log on to Custom Typing from home to begin practicing keyboarding skills. The Custom Typing program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home. The link is: <http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

Art - www.owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com 5th graders are learning about petroglyphs. Petroglyphs are ancient symbols carved into rocks all over the world. We are looking at these symbols that represent a culture's beliefs and creating a clay slab box that we will carve symbols into that represent us.

Music - Congratulations to all the 5th grade on their showcase! If anyone has pictures and/or videos of the event, please email me at akaria@op97.org.

Chorus -Congratulations to all chorus members on a wonderful performance at the Oak Park Arms! We were featured in the Oak Leaves. [Click here to see the pictures](#). Our next performances will be in January. We will have an assembly with band and orchestra for students during the day on January 22nd and a performance with **Gold Belt Recorder Ensemble** at night (location/ dates TBD). Stay tuned for more information.

Spanish - The Spanish and Music Showcase is this Tuesday. The students have been working hard and are very excited for the performance. They will be performing skits in Spanish and singing a special song in Spanish as well. Artwork with a Spanish component will also be up to view. I look forward to seeing you there! <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/>.

Library - Last week, fifth graders did an excellent job showing me what they've learned this year by participating in a library scavenger hunt. Each group received a list of items to find in the library and an

ipod. Like a classic “road rally” scavenger hunt, each group snapped a picture once they found what each item on the list. Students should be so proud of their library skills! The ability to find books in our library will transfer to Brooks, the Oak Park Public Library, and beyond! This week we’ll talk about SPRING reading olympics (can you believe it?!). Look for permission slips on green paper. The library home page is <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/> . As always, feel free to email me with questions mmaneck@op97.org .

Physical Education - (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com) Heartland adventure is heading our way in p.e. for the entire month of November. This is an activity that teaches our boys and girls the functions of the circulatory and respiratory systems. Also our annual turkey trot is scheduled for November 25, 2013, more information to come.

Resource

Ms. Rose has created a new blog for the families of her Resource students. For more information on her activities, please visit: [Ms. Rose- Resource Support](#)

Reading/Literature

We will finish exploring the comparisons between theme and genre this week. Students will be able to accurately identify the genre of a book. We have been discussing Fiction, Nonfiction, Folktales, Drama, and Poetry. Then, they will compare and contrast the theme of the story.

This week we will finish reading *Tuck Everlasting*. This was a quick preview of the process of Literature Circles. Students are working collaboratively on all four roles they will have. This will help to prepare them to take responsibility for those roles during the next Literature Circle that will start in the new year when students will rotate through the four roles.

Writing

Students should be practicing their keyboarding skills at home. The Typing Training program is accessible from the District’s website.

Math

We will be taking the Unit 3 assessment this week. The assessment will consist of two parts, a summative assessment and a culminating task. We will complete the assessment over a three-day period. The unit assessment will focus on multiplication and division of decimals. We reviewed in class today. We will begin studying decimals when we return from winter break.

Science

This week we will begin to discuss with students the requirements of the Science Fair, which will take place on Tuesday, March 18, 2014. We will work with students on planning sheets after winter break, but experiments must be conducted at home. The science section of the wiki will be updated with information throughout the process.

<http://holmes5thgradescience.wikispaces.com/Science+Fair>

Social Studies

Last week in Social Studies we focused on the differences between the New England, Middle, and Southern Colonies. Students were asked to record notes on the Pros and Cons of moving to specific colonies. This week they will apply that knowledge by creating their own Colonial Handbills. Their Handbills will serve as an advertisement for the colony of their choosing. They will be asked to write concise, persuasive paragraphs on topics such as their colonies’ climate, economy, government, relationships with native people, and religious freedom. The Handbills will attempt to persuade Europeans to move to their colony!

Current Events will continue this week. Anyone who was unable to present during their assigned date will be asked to present. All the materials are available on our Wiki

(<http://5k-socialstudies.wikispaces.com/home>).

Spelling/Word Study

We will be having Spelling Words this week. We will continue to use the Spelling Menu as homework. Students must choose three activities a week. The activities are due Friday. Please remember that students may need to study extra in addition to the assigned spelling activities. Students have done an excellent job with their Spelling Words lately! Last week, more than half spelled all of their words correctly.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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